Pollution in Yamuna river

†3920. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water of the river Yamuna beyond Delhi is not fit for human beings for any purpose;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of projects were drawn up for the purification of its water during the last decade;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and the amount spent to cleanse Yamuna river so far, particularly in Delhi; and

(e) the action taken by Government for cleansing its water in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The water of river Yamuna beyond Delhi *i.e.* between Wazirabad and Okhla barrage is polluted mainly due to discharge of untreated/partially treated sewage and industrial waste into river Yamuna through open drains. As per water quality data of the Delhi stretch of river Yamuna observed during last year, the average Biochemical Oxygen Demand in this stretch is found to vary between 2.6 to 27.8 milligram per litre and the average Dissolved Oxygen between zero to 7.9 milligram per litre as against the desired values of 3.0 milligram per litre (maximum) of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand and 4.0 milligram per litre (minimum) of Dissolved Oxygen.

(c) and (d) The Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I was started by this Ministry in April, 1993 with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) funding and completed in February, 2003. Total expenditure incurred on the project was Rs. 668 crore including Rs. 180 crore for Delhi. Under this Plan, a treatment capacity of 30 million litre per day was created in Delhi, besides, 960 toilet complexes constructed in its various locations.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The JBIC has further committed financial assistance for Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-II, for which a loan agreement has been signed in March, 2003 with the project approved for three States of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 624 crore, out of which, the cost of works to be implemented for Delhi works out to Rs. 387 crore. The YAP Phase-II project is scheduled for completion by September, 2008 with the following major items of works to be implemented in Delhi under the project:

- Rehabilitation of trunk sewers (30.82 kms.)
- Sewage Treatment Plants (135 mld new and 324 mld rehabilitation)
- Preparation of Detailed Project Reports for projects to be taken up under future YAP Phase-III

In addition to the Yamuna Action Plan, the Government of NCT of Delhi out of their State Plan funds has also taken up large scale sewerage and sewage treatment works with the provision of an amount of Rs. 630 crore for the purpose during the IX Plan and Rs. 1862 crore in the X Plan.

(e) The major item of works proposed to be implemented under the Yamuna Action Plan and by the Government of NCT of Delhi out of their resources for bringing the river water quality to the desired class in the Delhi stretch of Yamuna, include:

(i) Rehabilitation/installation of additional sewage treatment capacity of about 580 mld.

(ii) Rehabilitation of full length of about 91 kms. of trunk sewers.

(iii) Provision of sewerage facilities in all the unauthorized resettlement colonies and urban villages.

(iv) Replacement of all undersized sewers by 250 mm dia sewers.

(v) Use of treated sewage for horticulture/agriculture

(vi) Commissioning of 15 CETPs.

(vii) Shifting of slums located on the banks of river and major drains.

(viii) Maintenance of minimum flow of water in the river.

A High Powered Committee under the directions of the Apex Court has also prepared an Integrated Action Plan for cleaning of River Yamuna in Delhi.